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Poland: Czechoslovakian occupation has intensified factionalism in the Polish party. (Page 4)

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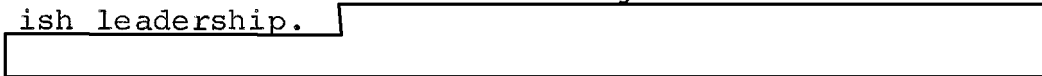
Poland: Warsaw's participation in the occupation of Czechoslovakia has deepened factional splits in the Polish party.



The main party daily, Trybuna Ludu, has reported that another central committee meeting took place on 29 August to deal with "current international problems." Gomulka presumably was trying to rally the Polish leadership to support the intervention. Spychalski, Loga-Sowinski, Moczar, and Gierek were not listed among those politburo members attending. The absence of Spychalski and Loga-Sowinski suggests they may be moving away from their previously strong support for Gomulka, although it would not necessarily mean their alignment with Moczar.

Opposition to the move against Czechoslovakia exists in other Eastern European states which took part in it, but it appears to be strongest in Poland. Middle-level regime leaders are seriously concerned over the impact of the intervention on Poland's political and trade relations with the non-Communist world.

Gomulka's nationalistic opponents probably will be much more cautious in the wake of Moscow's display of force in Czechoslovakia. For the time being, this will make Gomulka's position more secure, but only at the cost of further isolating him within the Polish leadership.



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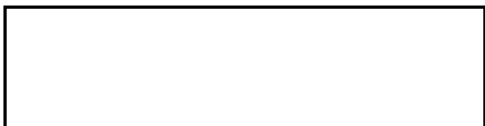
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